



SECTION ON LIBRARY THEORY AND RESEARCH (LTR)

The IFLA section on Library Theory and Research welcomes new members. We particularly invite membership from schools of library & information science. LTR has a proud IFLA history. Since 2006, the issues formerly dealt with by the section on Library and Information Science Journals have been integrated into our activities. An outline of our current activities follows.

The Section's Strategic Plan 2006-2007

Mission

Our professional priorities are: Supporting the role of libraries in society; Developing library professionals; and, Promoting standards, guidelines and best practices.

The IFLA Section on Library Theory & Research exists to:

- provide a research-based framework to IFLA's professional priorities through a program promoting theoretical and empirical library and information science research and analysis;
- provide and encourage international networking and knowledge exchange opportunities for library professionals engaged in library and information science research.

Goals and actions

- Encourage exchange between practice-based and theoretical research in LIS.
- Assist in the development of expertise and knowledge in useful research methods
- Facilitate transnational networks of common research interests

Encourage empirically based papers at IFLA and IFLA sponsored conferences with a particular focus upon eliciting the cultural and linguistic embeddedness of LIS research and aiming at increasing the visibility of LIS-research in different parts of the world. Following up on this goal, our focus at the Durban conference will be LIS research and publishing: the African LIS researcher's story.

Promote appropriate research activities and investigations relevant to IFLA's professional priorities. The section is about to conclude two major projects: One on policy makers' attitudes to public libraries and one on IFLA's role in diffusing professional norms and standard.

Encourage library schools to include LIS research units/courses/subjects in their programmes.

Our work

- A Newsletter sent twice a year to all members of the section
- A Research project on IFLA's role in diffusing professional norms and standards. What is the role IFLA plays for the international community of librarianship? National in-depth studies are combined with an international survey to elicit this issue. The project will be finalized in 2007.
- Organisation of meetings and workshops at WLIC-conferences

At the Durban 2007 conference, we will focus upon the situation for researching and publishing in LIS in Africa.

LIS Research and publishing: the African LIS researcher's story

- North African research tendencies in library and information science: the theoretical and the empirical
WAHID GDOURA (Manouba University, Tunis)
- LIS research in Africa: how much is it worth? A citation analysis of the literature, 1986-2006
OMWOYO BOSIRE ONYANCHA (University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, KwaDlangezwa, South Africa/Eldoret, Kenya)
- Research patterns, trends and challenges in library and information science in South Africa. An analysis of journal research and output from 1993-2006
DENNIS N. OCHOLLA (University of Zululand, South Africa and LYUDMILLA OCHOLLA (University of Zululand, South Africa)
- Library and information science research in Botswana, an analysis of trends and patterns
KGOMOTSO H. MOAHI (University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana)
- Readability as consideration for book selection criterion in book selection practices in some academic libraries in Nigeria
GODWIN SHOKI (University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria)

At the Seoul 2006 conference, we hosted an off site meeting with the theme "*Library and information science research: the case in Korea*" at the Department of library & information science, Sookmyung W. University, Seoul, Korea.

We also sponsored a session focused on our ongoing project on IFLA's role in the profession.

The role of IFLA in promoting professional norms and standards: Results from an LTR-project

- IFLA's role in diffusing professional norms: results from an international survey
RAGNAR AUDUNSON (Oslo University College, Oslo, Norway)
- IFLA's role in diffusing professional norms: a US perspective
WALLACE KOEHLER (Valdosta University, US)
- A Cuban approach to "The role of IFLA in diffusing professional norms and standards"
EMILIO SETIEN-QUESADA (Cuban Association of Librarians (ASCUBI)
- IFLA's role in diffusing professional norms: LTR-Project in Russia
NATALIA L. GENDINA (Kemerovo State University of Culture and Arts, Russia)

We intend to organise an exciting programme for the IFLA 2008 conference in Quebec City, Canada, furthering our interests in research activities and investigations relevant to IFLA's professional priorities and to networking amongst colleagues interested in library theory, research and journals. These are all good reasons why you should join the Library Theory and Research Section.

How do you join?

You first need to join IFLA. Membership in IFLA is open to associations and institutions; affiliation is available for individuals. For further information on this and registering your interest in our section, contact:

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